

Data Description for Davis Pond Creel Survey

General: The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries generated these data by means of roving surveys of recreational fishing boats in the Barataria Basin beginning in May 1999. The survey included recreational shrimp trawlers.

Data Column Descriptions:

Date: mm/dd/yyyy

Time: Military (24 hour) time.

Interviewer ID: Each LDWF biologist conducting interviews is identified by a unique number.

Interview Number: Each day's interviews are sequentially numbered. On some days, gaps appear in the sequence because the missing interviews were later deemed not relevant to the survey. For example, while interviewing recreational boats, the LDWF might hail a vessel that turns out to be a crew boat serving a drilling platform.

Interviews numbered "0" appear in the record on days when no boats were sighted by LDWF.

Number of Anglers: Number of anglers in the boat. When the activity was commercial fishing, hunting, or other activity not involving recreational fishing, this variable is typically entered as null, although occasionally recorded as zero.

Grid: Map 2003-04-02921.pdf shows a grid superimposed on the Barataria Basin. The grid number identifies the sector where the recreational fishers were sighted or where they reported having fished. Entries of "000" were made on days when no boats were sighted.

Fishing Activity: The activities of the boats interviewed fell into these classes: recreational fishing, commercial fishing, boating, trapping, hunting, and ecological.

Hours Spent Fishing: The LDWF biologists recorded the amount of time the fishers reported having been out.

Species Caught: Identifies the species of fish by its common (not scientific) name.

Number Caught: Number of fish caught, per boat, by species. This totals the catch, for the given species, for all fishers in the boat.

Length: Time permitting, and with consent of the fishers, LDWF biologists measured the catch and reported total length of each fish in millimeters.

Disposition of Catch: Retained or unretained.

Reason Not Kept: When catch was unretained, LDWF recorded the reason.

Guide: Reports whether the fishers were using a guide, yes or no.

Gear: Types of gear reported used in the Barataria Basin are: rod and reel, limb line, jug line, cast net, trawl, spear gun, trap, and trot line.

Perception: Records the fishers' perception of the trip, as poor, fair, good, or excellent.

First Targeted Species: The species the fishers reported having targeted as their first choice, using the common (not the scientific) name of the fish.

Second Targeted Species: The species the fishers reported having targeted as their second choice, using the common (not the scientific) name of the fish.

Third Targeted Species: The species the fishers reported having targeted as their third choice, using the common (not the scientific) name of the fish.

Marina or Launch Site: Identifies the location of the launch site reported by the fishers, with varying degrees of specificity.

Comments: Includes comments by the LDWF biologists as well as comments by the fishers interviewed.